

PDC Interpretation

APPROVAL DATE:	March 26, 1996 Amended April 25, 2012	NUMBER:	96-04
STATUS:	Effective March 26, 1996	SUPERSEDES:	92-02
REFERENCES:	RCW42.17A.405 RCW 42.17A.410 RCW 42.17A.420(1) WAC 390-05-400 <i>Family PAC v. McKenna et al.</i> , 9 th Circuit Court of Appeals Nos. 10-35832 and 10-35893 (Dec. 29, 2011). Former RCW 42.17.105		
APPROVED BY:	The Commission		

“Within 21 Days of a General Election,” Definition

The Commission repeals its 1992 interpretation and adopts the following: For purposes of [RCW 42.17A.420\(1\)](#), “within 21 days of a general election” means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. PST on the third Tuesday before the general election held in November and ending at 11:59 p.m. PST on the day before the election.

[RCW 42.17A.420\(1\)](#) prohibits a candidate for statewide office from receiving aggregate contributions exceeding \$50,000 within 21 days of a general election and all other candidates and political committees from receiving aggregate contributions exceeding \$5,000 within 21 days of a general election. By law, this prohibition does not apply to contributions made by or accepted from a bona fide political party’s state committee. The prohibition also does not apply to ballot measure committees, pursuant to the federal court ruling in *Family PAC v. McKenna et al.*, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Nos. 10-35832 and 10-35893 (Dec. 29, 2011).

This interpretation should not be construed as authority to exceed contributions limits set out at [RCW 42.17A.405](#), [RCW 42.17A.410](#), and [WAC 390-05-400](#).